

REMARKS

In the January 15 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1, 8-13, 37, 43, 45, and 52 as unpatentable over Uehara in U.S. Patent No. 6,256,125, objected to claims 16-21, 41, and 54 as allowable if rewritten in independent form, and allowed claims 46-51 and 64. Claims 1-64 remain at issue.

In response thereto, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 37, and 52 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 16, 41, and 54 respectively. Claims 16, 41, and 54 have been cancelled, and claims 17 and 18 have been amended to be dependent on claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-15, 17-40, 42-53 and 55-64 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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